

# PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Western District of Wisconsin  
(608) 264-5158  
TTY (608) 264-5006  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw)

---

## For Immediate Release

October 20, 2006

## Contact Person

Stephen P. Sinnott  
First Assistant U.S. Attorney

### **SIX RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARD FOR DRUG/GANG INVESTIGATION**

Madison, Wisconsin -- The Department of Justice held its 23rd annual Executive Office for United States Attorneys Director's Awards Ceremony today, during which six individuals from the Western District of Wisconsin were recognized for their roles in the investigation and prosecution of 47 individuals for drug trafficking on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation in Sawyer County. At the ceremony, 154 award recipients from across the country were recognized for their excellence in law enforcement.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys John W. Vaudreuil and Laura Przybylinski Finn, Victim-Witness Coordinator Barbara E. Williams, Special Agent Kenneth Mammoser of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Special Agent Daniel Bethards of the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau, and Sawyer County Sheriff's Investigator Daniel C. Ross, Sr. were recognized for superior performance by a litigative team. Their long-term investigation led to the federal convictions of 47 individuals who conspired, in connection with the Latin King Nation, to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine on and around the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation.

"Today's award recipients are honored for their extraordinary commitment to protecting our communities, promoting justice and preserving the civil liberties that make our country so great," said Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales. "It is through their dedicated efforts and sacrifice that we are able to preserve justice for our communities, our nation and for future generations."

Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, who attended today's ceremony, said, "It is only through the cooperation and coordination demonstrated by this team of local, state, and federal officials that we can effectively combat violent drug gangs. Because of their determination and hard work, Wisconsin is a safer place."

# # # #